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interest ornithologists to know that the tree sparrow of Europe (*Pyrgita montana*) has lately been discovered to be a resident of the United States.

The resemblance of this species to the English house sparrow has led me to be on the watch for it since the introduction of the latter, but without success until I found it in St. Louis, Mo., last spring. Here I found the new species abundant, but was unwilling to take any until the breeding season was over. Four skins sent to Mr. G. N. Lawrence, of New York, are pronounced by him to "agree accurately with the plate and description of this species." He also informs me that about five years ago Mr. Eugene Schieffelin noticed fifty or sixty of these birds in the store of a bird importer in New York, where they were unrecognized; and these were probably afterwards sold as or with *P. domestica*. This is undoubtedly the explanation of their occurrence here, and further search will very likely show their presence in other localities.

With a general resemblance to the common house sparrow, *Pyrgita montana* is readily distinguished by its chestnut crown and the similarity of both sexes and the young. In St. Louis it considerably outnumbers *P. domestica*, and, as is the case in Europe, it prefers the outskirts of the city and the country. In other respects these two species closely resemble each other. — DR. JAMES C. MERRILL, U. S. Army.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

ANTIQUITY OF MAN. — Mr. Southall, in his late work on the Recent Origin of Man, founds an argument against the antiquity of man's origin in the fact that what are unquestionably paleolithic implements are occasionally found on the surface of the ground, either alone or associated with neolithic or polished stone implements. There are two reasons why such a commingling of the two forms does not militate against this division of an unquestioned stone age. It should be remembered, in the first place, that paleolithic implements, after being long buried in strata of sand or gravel, may become exposed by floods, landslides, or through ice-action, as when an ice-gorge causes a river to cut for itself a new channel, thereby sweeping away the soil over a considerable belt of country. Subsequently, the river resumes its older channel, and the newer implements in time are dropped and so mingled with the exposed older forms. From what I have seen of the action of the Delaware River along its valley, especially between the cities of Trenton and Bordentown, in New Jersey, I have satisfied myself that such may have occasionally been the case during the occupancy of this neighborhood by the Indians. Secondly, if the Indians were the first and only inhabitants of the Atlantic coast of America, prior to the arrival of the Europeans, it is quite certain that they were a paleolithic people when they reached these shores, and whatever may have been the geological changes subsequently, they maintained their ground, and very gradually learned to

utilize the more difficultly wrought minerals in fabricating stone implements, and thereby reached the polished stone period. In this way, the two forms would be necessarily mingled; but it must be remembered that as a rule the two forms *are not associated*. Where one paleolithic implement is found upon the surface, a hundred are quite deeply imbedded in the soil, and in the underlying gravels. — CHARLES C. ABBOTT, M. D.

INDIAN GRAVES IN NEW JERSEY. — The graves of Indians found here in central New Jersey vary to a considerable degree, and suggest the probability that tribes having different burial customs successively occupied this territory. On the terrace that faces the east side of the Delaware River, below Trenton, where I have gathered thousands of stone implements, the graves are to be detected by the discoloration of the soil and the little series of relics that were deposited in each grave. These graves, now a foot or more deep, were in all probability "surface burials," *i. e.*, the body, encased in skins and covered with bark, was placed *on*, not *in*, the ground. In time the grave would become covered with leaves and sand, and so gradually be covered with a thin layer of vegetable mold and earth. The gradual increase in the depth of the soil, which is ever in progress in wooded countries, would result in making the surface burial really an inhumation, and as such we now find it. This shallow grave, with every vestige of the skeleton long since gone, and simply indicated by a few arrow-points, an ax, and possibly a pipe, bears every indication of antiquity, and yet doubtless is simply the grave of an Indian. There is one feature connected with these graves and the scattered relics, as we find them, that deserves attention. The rude implements, never polished, and made of the river rock, which we have maintained were strictly paleolithic implements, are never found in these graves, or in any graves that we have examined. Had these ruder implements been used as a general thing, at the same time that the polished celt and jasper arrowheads were made, then they would likewise have been deposited in the graves; for the contents of an Indian grave are the implements and ornaments the occupant used and wore during his life-time. Like the implements themselves, these graves are proofs of the great antiquity of man's origin along the Atlantic coast of America. — CHARLES C. ABBOTT, M. D.

GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

COMSTOCK'S GEOLOGY OF WYOMING. — This report is to be found in Captain Jones's Report upon the Reconnaissance of Northwestern Wyoming including Yellowstone National Park, made in the Summer of 1873. The portion by Prof. Theo. B. Comstock relates to the structural geology of the country passed over, and contains new matter regarding the celebrated hot springs and geysers of the Yellowstone Park, with archæological and philological notes relating to the Indian